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THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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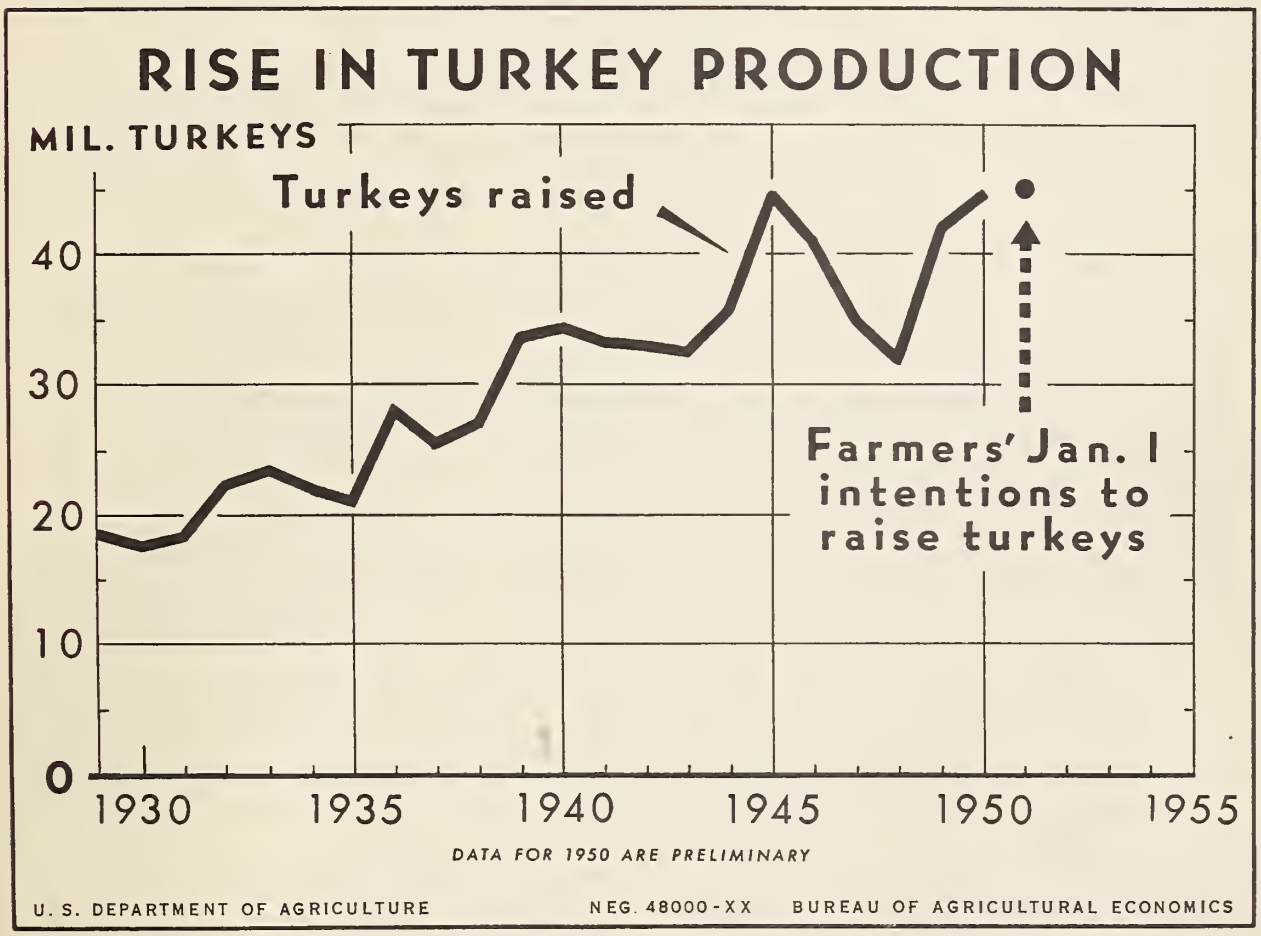


The average increase in the number of turkeys raised in the United States has been equivalent to an annual growth of about 6 percent per year for the industry, compared with the average annual increase of 1 percent in population during the same period. The trend within the industry has been for the number of turkey flocks to become fewer but larger. Also there has been a recent trend toward the production of birds of the smaller breeds.

The poultry and egg situation at a glance

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1939-48 1/	1949 2/	1950 3/	Month or date	Average 1939-48 1/	1949 2/	1950 3/	Comments on current situation
				Eggs						
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Dec.	266.7	377.2	356.3	Jan.	326.4	431.2	418.4	February 1 indications about equal to last year
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Dec.	386.9	401.0	390.4	Jan.	391.7	405.2	394.6	
Rate of lay per hen	Eggs	Dec.	9.4	11.3	11.0	Jan.	10.0	12.8	12.7	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	Nov.	25.9	29.7	29.5	Dec.	27.5	31.0	31.3	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Nov.	---	3.7	2.4	Dec.	---	9.3	1.4	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Nov.	---	1.5	1.1	Dec.	---	8.7	0.5	Affected by status of USDA price support
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Dec.	41.7	40.5	57.7	Jan.	36.2	31.2	42.6	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Dec.	89	66	95	Jan.	94	62	82	
Retail price (BAE)	Ct. per doz.	Nov.	55.6	65.3	64.9	Dec.	54.5	55.2	81.1	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Dec.	15.0	12.0	15.4	Jan.	12.8	9.3	11.0	More favorable to producers than year ago
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Jan. 1	429	110	34	Feb. 1	294	380	76	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	106.7	53.9	47.3	Feb. 1	81.3	55.1	32.1	
Dried	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	---	70.2	96.1	Feb. 1	---	76.3	91.1	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Dec.	32.4	55.3	65.8	Jan.	52.1	83.7	92.1	Eggs in incubators and advance orders, also ahead of last year
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Jan. 1	49.2	34.1	29.9	Feb. 1	30.6	21.5	19.1	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	Dec.	2.84	3.38	3.74	Jan.	2.88	3.38	3.89	
				Poultry						
Price received by farmers for chickens, live	Ct. per lb.	Dec.	21.7	22.3	22.3	Jan.	21.9	20.3	24.3	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Dec.	107	81	74	Jan.	108	71	80	
Retail price of chickens, dressed (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	43.6	50.5	49.4	Dec.	42.5	47.8	47.7	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Dec.	31.0	35.3	34.3	Jan.	32.8	32.6	33.9	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	175.1	165.6	171.9	Feb. 1	152.3	158.1	165.2	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	67.7	126.9	110.1	Feb. 1	76.2	137.6	116.6	Season peak
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Dec.	7.3	6.1	6.0	Jan. 1	7.0	6.0	6.2	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Dec.	11.0	10.4	9.2	Jan.	10.4	9.6	8.7	
Average weekly receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	Thous. lb.	Dec.	19.9	16.8	21.3	Jan.	9.8	12.6	15.7	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 7 broiler areas	Millions	Dec.	---	5.9	7.2	Jan.	---	6.1	7.5	February likely to exceed January

1/ Except when data are for January or February, when average is 1940-49.

2/ Except when data are for January or February, when entries are for 1950.

3/ Except when data are for January or February, when entries are for 1951.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 15, 1951

SUMMARY

Egg prices have declined seasonally after reaching the mid-winter peaks of December, but in February prices were substantially above a year earlier. Whether or not the full seasonal decline in egg prices has been completed will depend largely on the amount of eggs used for storage and processing.

Shell eggs are now exempt from price control as long as they remain a raw and unprocessed commodity. Eggs become a processed commodity when they are graded, and then become subject to the price ceiling regulation in the same manner as chickens and turkeys in processed forms. The prices for live chickens and turkeys are not controlled.

Storage stocks of frozen eggs at the beginning of 1951 were the lowest in 23 years. The consequent demand for eggs for breaking has helped to maintain shell egg prices above a year ago.

Indications are that substantially more eggs will move into storage this spring than was the case last year. This, along with other factors in the market, is likely to maintain egg prices this spring well above last spring's levels.

More chickens may be raised in 1951 than in 1950. If the increase occurs, it will not result in higher egg production until the last three months of this year.

Poultry prices in early February were higher than a month earlier but were relatively lower than prices of meat animals with which they compete. In mid-January chicken prices were 80 percent and turkey prices 88 percent of parity. On the same date, hogs were 97 percent of parity, beef cattle 141 percent, veal calves 143 percent, and lambs 143 percent.

On January 1, farmers intended to raise 1 percent more turkeys in 1951 than the 44.6 million they raised in 1950. Most of the increase is indicated in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic regions.

Because of their current interest, explanations of how to compute parity prices for eggs, chickens, and turkeys, and charts showing the relationship of U. S. average farm egg prices, and New York and Chicago egg prices, are included in this issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Price Ceilings: Margins Controlled for Eggs, Chickens, and Turkeys in Processed Form

The General Ceiling Price Regulation issued on January 26 exempted farmers' sales of all unprocessed agricultural commodities, including eggs, chickens, and turkeys, from price control. However, as amended on February 12, the Regulation exempts at all levels of trade raw farm products selling below legal minimum ceilings. Processed agricultural commodities at stages of trade beyond the farm level are still controlled. Graded eggs are considered to be processed agricultural commodities. Dressed chickens and turkeys are also processed commodities and under the Regulation price increases at successive levels of distribution are permissible upon submission of evidence showing increased paying prices for raw materials.

All transactions involving live poultry are exempt from price control. Each handler beyond the producer of chickens and turkeys (as well as of other poultry) and of products derived from them (but excluding live animals) has as his individual ceiling the highest price that he charged in the base period, December 19, 1950 to January 25, 1951. Handlers' prices cannot be frozen at their peak base period prices so long as the prices of chickens and turkeys remain below parity. Handlers who find that current replacement costs are exceeding the highest prices they paid in the base period may increase their selling prices accordingly, until the farm price of the commodity reaches the level which has been designated as the legal minimum at which the ceiling may be set. When a handler finds it necessary to thus raise his selling price to compensate for increases in his buying prices, he can do so as soon as he has dispatched a registered letter to the Director of Price Stabilization, Washington 25, D. C., explaining the circumstances. 1/

In effect, for chickens and turkeys, this regulation amounts to setting an upper limit, though not a freeze, on handlers' margins. When the purchase cost is the same as or lower than the highest in the base period, handlers' margins are limited to those which would result in a selling price no higher than the base-period maximum. An exception to this occurs if the handler had meanwhile increased his ceiling price as explained in the preceding paragraph. Prices paid to farmers are not directly controlled under the January 26 regulation.

In the event that prices of eggs, chickens, or turkeys, are found by the Secretary of Agriculture to have reached 100 percent of parity, handlers would be permitted no further price increases. The resultant "freeze" might be followed by dollars-and-cents ceilings applied to those commodities, or to commodities processed from them. As long as the prices remain under parity, however, margins are rigidly controlled only when paying prices equal or exceed base period prices (exception: when a handler had increased his ceiling above the base period by the registered letter procedure). This is because 100 percent of parity is the effective legal minimum below which no ceiling may be set on eggs, chickens, and turkeys. In mid-January, the respective prices of these commodities as percentages of parity were 82, 80, and 88.

1/ For the text of the General Ceiling Price Regulation and its supplements and amendments, write to the Director of Price Stabilization, Washington 25, D. C. or to the District offices of the Agency.

The role of parity in determining the minimum level for price ceilings has given a new and added interest to the method by which the figure is computed. The method is described in a later section of this report.

An additional section of this issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation contains charts which relate selected Chicago and New York egg prices to U. S. average farm prices. Using such a relationship, estimates can be made of current U. S. average farm price levels. These, however, are not official determinations of the relations between farm and wholesale prices that will be adopted for administrative purposes.

The following table indicates certain base-period quotations for selected grades of eggs, chickens, and turkeys at various markets. The base period for the freeze was generally marked by rising prices for chickens and turkeys, but falling prices for eggs.

Egg Prices Seasonally Lower:
Short-Term Outlook

The general downward movements of egg prices from early December through January were in accord with seasonal expectations. The increased production of December and January as compared with the months preceding, and the relief of the storm-caused transportation tie-ups, brought prices down from the peaks which occurred early in December.

Egg prices in early February seemed low in comparison with the early December prices. However, in comparison to the prices of a year earlier, the prices to producers in early February were substantially higher.

Even if there are further seasonal declines, egg prices this spring will average higher than a year earlier. The trend of egg prices for the next few months will depend a good deal upon the trends in storage and processing.

The year 1951 opened with the smallest shell egg stocks on record, and with holdings of frozen eggs at a lower level than at any other time in the last 23 years. Under these circumstances, the absence of stored shell stocks to compete with fresh, and the need for breaking eggs for immediate use as liquid or frozen, have contributed to the ready clearance of current production from the markets at prices exceeding those of a year ago. Later in the season, however, the continuation of prices higher than last year will depend to a great extent upon the size of the movement into cold storage.

Under the price relationships of early February, and because of favorable storage experience in late 1950, egg storage activity in 1951 is likely to be substantially larger than in 1950. However, some of the price relationships affecting this activity may change before the into-storage period is over. For example, during past into-storage seasons, the spread between egg prices in Iowa and future prices in Chicago has been a guide to the volume of eggs moving into storage (table 3). Early February is too early in the season to be considered an important storage month; but the price spread between Iowa eggs and Chicago futures at that time was wider than any shown in table 3 for any of the springtime months of 1949 or 1950.

If this wide spread continues through the heavy storage months, the hedging margin would be very favorable for egg storers. It probably would result in a volume of shell-egg storage even exceeding the previous expectation. Through the diversion of so many eggs to storage, the maintenance of such a spread would also contribute to very firm egg prices this spring, probably at levels near those of early February.

Table 1.- Base period quotations, December 19, 1950 -January 25, 1951, for selected grades of eggs, chickens, and turkeys at various markets

Description of commodity	Market	December 19, 1950 quotation	Highest quotation December 19 - January 25 inclusive: Date recorded	Highest quotation December 19 - January 25 inclusive: Price	January 25, 1951 quotation	February 15, 1951 quotation
		Cents	Date	Cents	Cents	Cents
Eggs, per dozen						
Nearby, white, extra fancy heavy weights	New York 1/	61-62	Dec. 20-22, and 28-29	62	44½-45	50½-51½
Nearby, brown, extra fancy heavy weights	New York 1/	59	Dec. 28,29	61	44½-45½	50½-51½
Mid-western, mixed colors, Extras (60 percent A's,45 lbs.)	New York 1/	55	Dec. 20,21	57	41 -41½	47-48
White, extras (60 percent A's, 45-48 lbs.)	New York 2/	56-57	Dec. 22	58-59	41 -42	49-51
Large, mixed colors, Extras (60 percent A's)	Chicago 2/	49-50	Dec. 28,29	51-52	39½-40	46½-47
Large, Grade A	Los Angeles 2/	59-62	Dec. 21	54½-57	46 -47	48½-49
Chickens, dressed, per pound						
Iced, Del-Mar-Va, 2½ lbs. average	New York 1/	29½-30½	Jan. 23-25 inclusive	33½-34	33½-34	32-34
Dry-packed fowl, fresh, 48-54 lbs. per dozen	New York 1/	33½	Jan. 23-25 inclusive	36½-37	36½-37	40
Turkeys, dressed, per pound						
Northwestern, top-grade, young toms, 24 lbs. and over	New York 1/	3/42	Jan. 23-25 inclusive	4/45½	4/45½	4/ 46-47

1/ As quoted by the Urner-Barry Company. 2/ As quoted by the Federal-State Market News Service.
3/ Fresh. 4/ Frozen.

Table 2.- Eggs, price per dozen for selected qualities at selected markets, with comparisons, January 1951 to date

Date (Mondays, or first following business day)	Farm Prices			Wholesale prices				Retail prices	
		Country points in Iowa 2/		New York 3/		Chicago	Los Angeles		New York City
	U. S. average 1/	Current receipts	Top quality	Nearby whites, fancy, heavy weights	Midwestern large, mixed colors, Extras #1	Large, white, Extras	Consumer Grade A, large	U. S. average (BAE) 1/	in chain stores white, Grade A large or extra large 3/ 4/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1951									
January 2	( )	33-36	42	56	51-51-1/2	48-48-1/2	52-54		77.00
January 8	( )	33-35	38-48	57	49-1/2	47-48	43-54		75.00
January 15	(42.6)	28-30	30-33	45	40	38-38-1/2	46-47		66.00
January 22	( )	32-33	35-36	47	44-44-1/2	42-43	47-48		64.00
January 29	( )	32-34	35-37	47	43-1/2	41-1/2-42	47-48		63.25
February 5		32-34	35-36	44	42-42-1/2	41-1/2-42	46-47		64.75
February 12				48	46	42-1/2-43	46-1/2-47		64.75
1950									
January 2	( )	23-25	26-28	44	36-1/2-37	33-1/2-35	43-43-1/2	( )	63.00
January 9	( )	25	25-27	37-38	34-1/2-34-3/4	34-34-1/2	43-43-1/2	( )	57.00
January 16	(31.3)	25	25-27	37	34-1/2	32-1/2-33	39-40	(46.9)	55.00
January 23	( )	23-25	24-25	34	33-33-1/2	30-1/2-31	36-37	( )	49.00
January 30	( )	25	26	35	33-1/2	31-1/2-32	37-37-1/2	( )	49.00
February 6	( )	25	26-27	35	32-1/2-33	31	36-37	( )	49.00
February 13	(29.6)	25	26-27	36	33-3/4-34	33-33-1/2	37-37-1/2	(43.4)	
February 20	( )	26-28	28-29	38	36	33-1/2-34-1/2	38-38-1/2	( )	53.00
February 27		26-27	29	39	35-1/2-36	34	39	( )	53.00
December 4	( )	45-47	50-52	66	64	62-1/2-63	66-67	( )	83.00
December 11	(57.7)	40-60	57-60	79	78	68-69	78-80	(81.1)	95.00
December 18	( )	35	42-45	62	59	52-53	63-64	( )	80.50
December 26	( )	30	38-39	59	52-52-1/2	50-51	51-53	( )	79.00

1/ At middle of indicated month. 2/ Prices on Tuesday following indicated date; spread of prices "mostly" paid, not entire range. 3/ As quoted by Urner-Barry Company. 4/ Average for week beginning on indicated day.

Table 3.- Eggs, selected prices per dozen, and Chicago storage movement, January 1951, with comparisons

Week ended	Prices 1/		October futures contracts, Chicago	Spread between futures and average range of:		Net into-storage movement in Chicago
	Current receipts in Iowa "mostly"	Large extras, mixed colors, in Chicago (60 percent A's)		Iowa current receipts	Chicago Extras, (60 percent A's)	
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cases
1951						
Jan. 6	33.0-35.5	47.8-48.4	42.5	8.3	-5.6	-2,955
13	31.5-33.5	42.2-42.9	43.3	10.8	0.7	- 467
20	29.0-30.5	39.0-39.6	43.8	13.3	4.5	793
27	31.0-32.5	40.5-41.1	45.1	13.3	4.3	921
Feb. 3	32.5-34.0	41.2-41.8	47.8	14.6	6.3	5,151
10	33.0-34.5	40.9-41.6	47.3	13.5	6.1	12,426
1950						
Feb. 4	23.5-28.0	31.3-32.1	37.8	12.0	6.1	75,430
11	25.0	30.9-31.7	37.5	12.5	6.2	84,183
18	25.0-25.5	32.6-33.2	38.1	12.9	5.2	62,097
25	26.0-27.5	34.0-34.8	38.0	11.2	3.6	39,000
Mar. 4	26.0-27.0	33.7-34.3	38.3	11.8	4.3	22,022
11	26.0-27.9	34.8-35.6	39.2	12.7	4.0	35,110
18	27.0-28.0	35.8-36.7	39.1	11.6	2.9	33,107
25	27.0-28.5	35.6-36.3	38.9	11.1	2.9	21,369
Apr. 1	25.5-27.0	33.2-33.7	38.3	12.1	4.9	30,316
8	25.5-26.5	32.0-33.1	38.0	12.0	5.4	58,810
15	25.0-26.0	33.2-34.1	38.3	12.8	4.7	65,917
22	25.5-26.0	33.1-33.9	38.3	12.5	4.8	69,919
29	25.5-26.5	33.1-33.7	38.2	12.2	4.8	56,413
May 6	25.0-25.5	31.3-31.9	37.9	12.7	6.3	71,092
13	25.0	31.4-32.3	37.9	12.9	6.1	89,799
20	24.0-25.0	29.8-30.6	37.5	13.0	7.3	91,382
27	25.0	31.0-31.6	37.9	12.9	6.6	108,305

1/ Federal-State Market News Service.

However, it is by no means assured that the hedging spread will continue at the level of mid-February. Changes may occur either in the price of the eggs from which the storage stocks are drawn, or in the future quotation to which the price is compared to compute the margin.

The usual trend of egg prices in the months immediately following February is downward. Such a trend is by no means invariable, as is noted in the 1950 experience. However, the seasonally increasing volume of egg production, unless fully offset by increases in dispositions such as storage, would normally be followed by declining prices.

In considering how stable the spread between spot and future prices might be, attention should also be given to the level of the future price and to the possibility that it might change. In this respect, importance attaches to (a) the favorable out-turn of the long contracts in last year's November and December options, and (b) the relatively wide gap between present egg prices as a percentage of parity, and minimum price levels at which dollars-and-cents ceilings can be established. These factors have probably combined to attract buyers in the egg futures market.

Table 4 shows some of the quantities and movements that were involved in last spring's developments in the egg market. The comparisons that are available so far for 1951 indicate some changes from last year's experiences.

Table 4.- Balance sheet of monthly production and disposition of farm egg supplies, January-June 1950

Month	Egg production on farms	Net movement to storage, shell and frozen	CCC purchases for price support	Balance 1/	Per capita civilian disappearance
	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Number of eggs
1950					
January	14,297	301	307	13,689	35.1
February	14,492	838	610	13,044	33.1
March	17,858	1,718	701	15,439	38.0
April	17,739	1,879	1,640	14,220	36.0
May	17,061	1,923	1,751	13,387	33.5
June	14,356	487	1,494	12,375	31.2
Jan.-June total, 1950	95,803	7,146	6,503	82,154	206.9

1/ For civilian consumption, military use, hatching, and commercial international trade.

On the supply side, the number of the potential layers on farms the first of January 1951 was 3 percent smaller than a year earlier. The rate of lay during January was almost the same as a year earlier but on February 1 the eggs layed per 100 layers was 2½ percent higher than the year before. In the past, increases of this percentage in rate of lay have not often been carried through the flush laying months of March and April. The expectations regarding total egg production on farms in the first six months of 1951 are that slightly fewer eggs will be produced than a year earlier. Increases in the rate of lay will partly but not entirely offset the reduction in the number of layers.

Although farm production of eggs may be smaller than a year earlier, supplies available for immediate consumption may not show a corresponding decline. The absence of a Department of Agriculture price support program this year will eliminate an important diversion from supplies available for commercial distribution. (In 1950, January-June purchases for price support were equal to 6½ million cases.)

Partly offsetting this is the likelihood that more eggs will move to cold storage in the spring of 1951 than was the case in 1950. Meanwhile other factors pointing to a stronger over all demand, such as the increase in population during the past year, increases in buying for the armed forces, and higher incomes will create an upward pressure upon prices. These price raising influences probably will more than offset the absence in 1951 of price support buying.

Farmers' February 1 Intentions
4 Percent Under 1951 Chick Purchases

Farmers on February 1 intended to buy 4 percent fewer chicks for laying flock replacement then they had bought in the spring of 1950. The differences that may develop between their February plans and their actual purchases will depend partly upon egg and feed prices during the hatching season, and upon the development of factors which affect the longer-term outlook. Among these are individuals' expectations regarding the prospective egg price levels for the months when 1951-hatched pullets will be producing eggs. Also a factor are the adjustments that farmers make in their plans in response to published intentions.

On February 1, 1950, farmers intended to purchase 12 percent fewer baby chicks than in 1949. They actually purchased 10 percent less. On February 1, 1949, farmers intended to purchase 7 percent more baby chicks than in 1948, but they actually purchased 17 percent more, because the egg-feed price relationship remained very favorable during the hatching season. On February 1, 1948, farmers intended to purchase 20 percent fewer baby chicks than in 1947, but they actually purchased 15 percent less. In 1947 their chick purchases were 6 percent more than their February 1 intentions, perhaps because of increasing egg prices through the hatching season.

Farmers report 63 percent of their baby chicks purchased last year were straight run chicks, 32 percent were pullet chicks, and 5 percent cockerels. This year they plan to buy 63 percent straight run chicks, 33 percent pullets, and 4 percent cockerels.

Table 5.- Intended purchases of baby chicks, 1951

Geographic divisions	Intended purchases as a percent of 1950 purchases	Percent of total: Baby chicks bought in 1950: Straight run	Pullet chicks	Cockerel chicks	Baby chicks intended in 1951: Straight run	Pullet chicks	Cockerel chicks
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
New England	140	40	49	7	48	46	6
Middle Atlantic	100	43	51	6	46	49	5
E. N. Central	92	60	36	4	57	38	5
W. N. Central	88	62	32	6	62	33	5
South Atlantic	102	79	19	2	80	18	2
E. S. Central	101	72	25	3	71	26	3
W. S. Central	97	79	17	4	75	18	7
Mountain	100	64	29	7	63	30	7
Pacific	102	50	46	4	51	46	3
United States	96	63	32	5	63	33	4

The Longer-Run Outlook for Egg Prices

Present indications suggest that egg prices during the hatching season will continue at levels higher than a year ago. If this price expectation materializes, farmers may revise upward their February 1 intentions for raising chickens in 1951. Their intentions as of February 1 were to buy 4 percent fewer chicks for laying flock replacements in 1951 than they had bought in 1950. These intentions are more fully discussed in the preceding section of this report.

An increased fall supply of eggs from cold storage is likely. If such a supply is combined with expectations regarding a larger number of chickens raised in 1951 than in 1950, the result would suggest a larger supply of eggs available beyond mid-summer 1951 than was the case in 1950. The price-reducing effects of such a supply should be considered in connection with the price increasing factors which stem from growing employment and expanding consumer incomes and together with the rising prices or developing scarcities for items competing with eggs.

As a part of this latter consideration, it should be recognized that possible difficulties in the distribution of other commodities under price control may increase the demand for eggs, which will be taken as a substitute. If this develops, the consequent price rises that might then occur for eggs could be quite substantial before prices reached 100 percent of parity, below which no controls are imposed on unprocessed agricultural commodities. Eggs and poultry are the only remaining major animal products substantially below parity.

In view of the below-parity position of the grain components of the poultry ration there is great likelihood of continued rise in those prices. The farm values of poultry rations are likely to continue through the spring higher than a year ago. In January 1951, the value of the ration was 15 percent above a year earlier, and a margin at least this wide is likely to continue for the next few months.

If farmers react as they have in the past to these considerations regarding costs and margins, and if both egg and feed prices continue their present relation to last year, the number of chicks raised for laying flock replacement will be somewhat larger in 1951 than in 1950. A typical pattern is that each 1 percent change in the springtime egg-feed price ratio results in a percentage change about half as large in the number of chickens raised, and about one-quarter as large in the number of potential layers available the following January 1. In January 1951, the egg-feed price ratio of 11.0 was 18 percent higher than the ratio of a year earlier.

Poultry Prices Increase;
Expected to Continue Firm

Chicken prices in mid-January were 9 percent higher than a month earlier, and 8 percent higher than two months previously. The mid-January price of 24.3 cents per pound (live) compares with 20.3 cents for January 1950.

Broiler prices have increased more than the average for all chickens. In the specialized production areas, the 5 to 8 cent increases that have occurred since mid-December have probably been a factor in the increase that has been reported since then in the settings of eggs in incubators. In mid-December, and for 2 or 3 months prior, many broiler growers received prices which provided little or no returns to producers for their labor, management, and investment.

Present marketings of turkeys are at a seasonal low point, the bulk of the output from the 1950 crop having been sold in December and the months prior. Breeder hens will move to market in a few months, however. These birds normally sell at a discount as compared with the younger birds sold in the October-January period preceding. This discount against breeders ordinarily shows up as a seasonal decline in the prices farmers receive for turkeys in the spring months as compared with the preceding fall and winter. In view of the present extraordinary conditions, however, such a seasonal decline may be smaller than occurred last year.

February storage holdings of chickens were 158 million pounds, a 3 percent decline from the seasonal peak of January 1. Turkey stocks on February 1 were 6½ million pounds above the January 1 holdings and were at the season peak. A comparison of the accumulation of present stocks of poultry, and of the prices prevailing at the time of the in-movement, indicates that in general the stocks were accumulated on a rising market and at a lower price level than that prevailing in February 1951.

Larger Turkey Crop Intended;
Increase May Average 1 Percent

Farmers in the United States according to a survey of their January 1 intentions expect to raise 1 percent more turkeys than they did last year. Of course, farmers' actual performance may differ from their earlier intentions but past comparisons of intentions and performance indicate a close relationship between the two.

Table 6.- Broilers: Prices per pound in selected areas and total settings of eggs in incubators in 7 specialized areas, selected dates and periods, August 1950 to date

Date 2/	Broiler price per pound 1/					Simple average	Average weekly settings of eggs in incubators in 7 specialized areas	
	Del-Mar-Va. 3/	Shanandoah Valley 4/	North Georgia 5/	Mississippi 4/ 6/	N. W. Arkansas 5/		Period covered	1,000 eggs
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents		
1950								
Aug. 15	31-33½	29-31	28-30	29-30	7/32	30.6	July 30-Sept. 2	8,770
Sept. 15	7/28	28½-30	7/30	30½-31	31-32	29.9	Sept. 3-Sept. 30	8,638
Oct. 15	24½-25	25-26	25-26½	27	7/27	26.0	Oct. 1-Oct. 28	8,094
Nov. 15	22	24-26	7/23	24-25	7/23	23.5	Oct. 29-Dec. 2	8,966
Dec. 15	29½	21-23	7/21-22	20½-25	21-22	23.4	Dec. 3-Dec. 30	8,596
1951								
Jan. 2	23-24½	21-22	7/21½-23	7/23-25	22-23½	22.8	Dec. 31-Jan. 6	9,067
8	25-27½	22-24	25-27	25-29	7/26	25.6	Jan. 7-Jan. 13	9,469
15	25-26	25-27½	7/28-29	29-30	27-28	27.4	Jan. 14-Jan. 20	9,817
22	27-28	25-27	7/25½-26	26-28	7/26	26.4	Jan. 21-Jan. 27	10,385
29	27-28	27-28	25½-26	25-27	7/26	26.6	Jan. 28-Feb. 3	10,730
Feb. 5	28-29½	27-28	25-27	25-27	27-28	27.2	Feb. 4-Feb. 10	11,096
12	27½-28	7/27-28	28-30	7/28-29	28-29	28.2		

1/ As quoted by Federal-State Market News Service.
2/ When indicated date falls on holiday or Sunday, quotation taken on first week day following.
3/ 3 pounds and under.
4/ Broilers and fryers.
5/ Broilers and fryers, all weights.
6/ Central area.
7/ "Mostly."

Table 7.- Poultry: Cold-storage stocks and accumulation, and average prices, by months, August 1950 to date

	Chickens (all poultry excluding turkeys and ducks)			Turkeys			
	Stocks beginning of month	Accumulation during month	U. S. average farm price per pound, (live) 1/	Stocks first of month	Accumulation during month	U. S. average farm price per pound, (live) 1/	Prices at mid-month of heavy toms, New York City, per pound (dressed) fresh (A) or frozen (B) 2/
	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Cents
1950							
August	48,284	7,961	25.4	46,979	- 9,534	33.8	39½ - 40 (B)
September	56,245	28,043	24.5	37,445	5,259	33.5	38½ - 39 (B)
October	84,288	43,261	22.7	42,704	34,165	31.8	35½ - 36 (A)
November	127,549	34,052	22.6	76,869	31,170	32.6	36½ - 37 (A)
December	161,601	8,294	22.3	108,039	2,071	34.3	42(A) and (B)
1951							
January	169,895	-11,443	24.3	110,110	6,533	33.9	43½ - 44 (B)
February	158,452			116,643			

1/ Mid-month price received by farmers.
2/ Prices quoted by Federal-State Market News Service on 15th of month, or first business day following.

Table 8.- Turkeys: Number raised, by regions, 1943-47 average, 1948-50, and 1951 intentions

Item and year	Unit	Region						Total U. S.
		North Atlantic	E. N. Central	W. N. Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	
Number raised								
1943-47 average	Millions	3,041	4,162	10,618	2,949	5,483	11,314	37,568
1948	Millions	3,069	4,188	7,915	3,203	4,010	9,403	31,788
1949	Millions	3,397	5,126	10,818	4,300	5,561	12,848	42,050
1950 1/	Millions	3,583	5,696	12,151	5,061	6,058	12,001	44,550
Intentions 1951	Millions	3,852	5,763	12,152	5,444	6,109	11,453	44,773

1/ Preliminary.

Among the reasons for the observed departures between intentions and the actual number of turkeys raised, the intention report itself may be a substantial influence. The purpose of the report is to give producers a basis for planning possible adjustments in their farm operations, in line with the prospective supply situation. Other developments between the dates of the intention report and of placing poults may also serve to alter intentions, and of course the variable factor of poult mortality also affects the extent to which the number of turkeys actually raised corresponds to the intended number.

A further indication of the 1951 turkey output, beyond the intentions, is the report that showed 3 percent more breeder hens on farms January 1, 1951, than were held a year earlier.

Imports of Dried Egg Yolk in 1951 May be Sharply Reduced

In December 1950 the United States "froze" the American dollar balances owned by Red China or by her nationals, and the Red Chinese Government declared an embargo upon exports to the United States.

If these actions are effective, the result could be a decline in U. S. imports of dried egg yolk. Of the 7.4 million pounds of dried yolk imported into the United States in 1950, 7.2 million pounds or 97 percent were from China.

The quantity of dried yolk imported from China in the year was equal to the yolk from 982 thousand cases of eggs. Imports of albumen from all sources during the same period were 192 thousand pounds, equivalent to the albumen from only 68 thousand cases of eggs. This indicates that if the potential decrease in Chinese imports is to be offset by an increased domestic production of egg products separated into the yolk and albumen components, there will be an increased supply of albumen available from domestic production.

The principal uses of dried egg yolk are in the manufacture of baked goods, mayonnaise, noodles, and ice cream. Albumen is used in some baked goods and fancy pastries, in candy-making, and in certain non-food uses where its adhesive qualities are useful.

Table 10 indicates the relative importance of separated yolk and albumen, from both domestic and foreign sources, in the total supply of processed egg products. It indicates that yolk and albumen, separately from whole egg or mixed egg products, comprise an important proportion of the trade in frozen and dried egg products. Accordingly, changes in the proportions of albumen and yolk available in the U. S. market might be expected to alter the price relationships between the two components of the egg.

Table 9.- Turkeys: Numbers raised, poult mortality and related factors, available data, 1929 to date (including data for cover chart)

Year	Intentions to raise turkeys as percentage of previous year	Turkeys raised on farms: Number	Turkeys raised on farms: Percentage of previous year	Poult mortality	Presumed number of poults brooded on farms: Number	Presumed number of poults brooded on farms: Percentage of previous year	Number of turkeys on farms January 1: Breeder hens	Number of turkeys on farms January 1: Total	Breeder hens as a percentage of total	Poults bred per breeder hen on farms on January 1: Number	Poults bred per breeder hen on farms on January 1: Percent of last year
	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Poults	Percent
1929		18,476						5,541			
1930		17,419	94					5,969			
1931		18,249	105					5,318			
1932		22,333	122					5,946			
1933		23,241	104					6,852			
1934		21,702	93					6,309			
1935		20,821	96					5,499			
1936		27,981	134					5,731			
1937		25,755	92				3,481	6,358	54.7		
1938	106	26,887	104	26.3	36,482		3,222	6,096	52.9	11.3	
1939	127	33,587	125	26.0	45,388	124	3,914	6,489	60.3	11.6	102
1940	105	34,047	101	25.?	45,947	101	4,607	8,569	53.8	10.0	86
1941	97	32,902	97	27.8	45,571	99	3,864	7,193	53.7	11.8	118
1942	108	32,805	100	28.8	46,074	101	4,003	7,485	53.5	11.5	98
1943	112	32,309	98	29.7	45,959	100	3,984	6,600	60.4	11.5	100
1944	102	35,616	110	25.9	48,060	105	4,294	7,429	57.8	11.2	97
1945	108	44,221	124	22.5	57,059	119	4,606	7,203	63.9	12.4	111
1946	95	40,724	92	21.7	52,077	91	5,241	8,493	61.7	9.9	80
1947	84	34,970	86	20.2	43,822	84	4,222	6,650	63.5	10.4	104
1948	82	31,788	91	13.6	36,797	83	2,771	4,450	62.3	13.3	128
1949	125	42,050	132	16.4	50,197	136	3,711	5,540	67.0	13.5	102
1950	101	1/44,550	106				3,940	5,986	65.8		
1951	101						1/4,053	1/5,975	67.8		

1/ Preliminary.

Table 10.- Egg yolk and albumen: Size and origin of U. S. supply of separated egg products, compared with total supply of frozen and dried egg, 1948 to date

Item	1948		1949		1950	
	Product weight	Case equivalent 1/ 2/	Product weight	Case equivalent 1/ 2/	Product weight	Case equivalent 1/ 2/
	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds
Dried yolk						
Imports from China	205	27	1,767	236	7,208	961
Imports from other sources	26	4	44	6	159	21
Domestic production	5,579	744	4,285	571	2,497	333
Total supply	5,810	775	6,096	813	9,864	1,315
Frozen or liquid yolk						
Imports	3/	3/	283	17	156	9
Domestic production	87,417	5,180	59,670	3,536	68,131	4,037
January 1 stocks 4/	24,012	1,423	22,059	1,307	11,164	662
Total supply	111,429	6,603	82,012	4,860	79,451	4,708
Minus: December 31 stocks 4/	22,059	1,307	11,164	662	13,047	773
Equivalent of quantity dried	12,553	744	9,641	571	5,618	333
Balance: Presumed availability for domestic use	76,817	4,552	61,207	3,627	60,786	3,602
Dried albumen						
Imports from China	2	1	43	15	192	68
Imports from other sources	52	18	5	2	---	---
Domestic production	2,678	947	2,266	802	3,247	1,148
Total supply	2,732	966	2,314	819	3,439	1,216
Exports	789	279	---	---	---	---
Balance: Presumed availability for domestic use	1,943	687	2,314	819	3,439	1,216
Frozen or liquid albumen						
Imports	3/	3/	---	---	---	---
Domestic production	107,503	5,212	88,768	4,304	109,204	5,294
January 1 stocks 4/	18,576	900	23,597	1,144	20,105	975
Total supply	126,079	6,112	112,365	5,448	129,309	6,269
Minus: December 31 stocks 4/	23,597	1,144	20,105	975	13,466	652
Equivalent of quantity dried	19,549	947	16,542	802	23,703	1,149
Balance: Presumed availability for domestic use	82,933	4,021	75,718	3,671	92,140	4,468
Dried whole egg						
Imports	29	3	93	9	147	15
Domestic production	36,018	3,554	69,411	6,850	85,738	8,460
Total	36,047	3,557	69,504	6,859	85,885	8,475
U. S. D. A. purchases	28,441	2,808	68,808	6,792	82,424	8,137
Difference, domestic production for immediate commercial use	7,606	749	696	67	3,461	338
U. S. D. A. sales for domestic food uses	---	---	75	7	330	32
Total availability for commercial domestic food use, excluding changes in storage stocks	7,606	749	771	74	3,791	370
Frozen or liquid whole or mixed egg						
Imports	2	3/	48	1	25	1
Domestic production	307,221	8,193	439,218	11,712	513,770	13,701
Stocks January 1 4/	95,604	2,549	59,276	1,581	22,633	604
Total supply	402,827	10,742	498,542	13,294	536,428	14,306
Minus: December 31 stocks 4/	59,276	1,581	22,633	602	22,142	590
Exports	8,439	225	15,567	415	2,446	65
Equivalent of quantity dried	133,267	3,554	256,821	6,850	317,231	8,460
Balance: Presumed availability for domestic use	201,845	5,382	203,521	5,427	194,609	5,191
Summary of availability						
Yolk, dried 5/	5,810	775	6,096	813	9,864	1,315
Liquid or frozen	76,817	4,552	61,207	3,627	60,786	3,602
Albumen, dried	1,943	687	2,314	819	3,439	1,216
Liquid or frozen	82,933	4,021	75,718	3,671	92,140	4,468
Whole or mixed egg, dried	7,606	749	771	74	3,791	370
Liquid or frozen	201,845	5,382	203,521	5,427	194,609	5,191

1/ Conversions used here are as follows:
1 case (30 dozen) equals 37-1/2 pounds liquid or 10.13 pounds dried whole egg.
1 case yields 16.875 pounds of liquid yolk or 7.5 pounds of dried yolk and 20.625 pounds of liquid albumen or 2.83 pounds of dried albumen.

2/ In some instances, entries in this column have been rounded so that totals are comparable.

3/ Less than 0.5.

4/ Includes "unclassified" apportioned among "mixed whole," "yolk," and "albumen," in the same proportions that the 3 designated classes bear to each other.

5/ Supply rather than availability.

HOW PARITY PRICES ARE COMPUTED FOR POULTRY AND EGGS

Parity is a method of determining a level of prices for farm products which will reflect to farmers a purchasing power for their products equivalent to the purchasing power that prevailed in a base period. Before the enactment of the Agricultural Acts of 1948 and 1949 this base period was, for eggs and poultry, 1910-14. The Acts added the most recent 10 years as the base period for determining relationships among the parity prices. In the event that the addition of the recent base ("modernized parity") resulted in a lower parity price than was provided by the old base, a cushioning provision was specified. This cushioning provision is the mechanism of "transitional parity" which is applicable to eggs and is described in a following paragraph.

The method of computing parity prices is simpler for chickens and turkeys than for eggs. This follows from the fact that, as described above, modernized parity is the effective one for chickens and turkeys while for eggs the transitional parity applies. Also the parity computation for eggs involves the additional step of adjusting current farm prices for seasonal variation.

For parity computations in the year 1951, the base period prices for chickens and turkeys are respectively 11.1 and 14.2 cents per pound, live weight. These were computed from the U. S. average prices paid to farmers in 1941-50. To determine the parity price, these figures must be multiplied by the current index of prices paid by farmers, including interest, taxes, and wage rates. The product must then be divided by 100. In January 1951, the index stood at 272 (1910-14=100). Its rise in the previous two months had averaged $4\frac{1}{2}$ points per month. The advent of price control can naturally be expected to slow this rise, but not stop it entirely.

To determine the percentage of parity represented by a current price, the current price is divided by the parity price. The appropriate current price is the average received by farmers in the United States as reported in the monthly publication Agricultural Prices, which is issued late each month by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This publication also carries the current data regarding the index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates, and a statement of the current price as a percent of parity.

For eggs the base-period price is 21.5 cents per dozen. This was the 1910-14 average farm price. The current effective parity price is obtained by multiplying this base-period price by (a) the current index of prices paid interest, and taxes, and dividing by 100, and then multiplying by (b) .90 (90 percent).

The index of prices paid, interest, and taxes used for eggs is not the same index as that used for turkeys and chickens. It is listed in Agricultural Prices as the "Unrevised Index". In January it was reported at 266 (1910-14=100), having shown an average rise of $3\frac{1}{2}$ points in each of the previous two months.

The multiplication by .90 is to allow for the fact that egg prices are governed by a transitional parity which declines 5 percent per year until the level of modernized parity is attained. The year 1951 is the second year in which transitional parity is applied to eggs; last year the factor was .95. In 1952, the modernized base multiplied by the appropriate index is likely to be higher than the transitional parity. If this is so, the transitional parity will then be abandoned.

After the parity price for eggs is thus computed, additional steps remain before the current price can be expressed as a percent of parity. The current price must be adjusted for seasonal variation before it can be compared with the parity price.

The factors used to adjust egg prices seasonally are as follows:

1950		1951	
July	97	January	101
August	103	February	89
September	111	March	87
October	118	April	87
November	116	May	87
December	114	June	90

To use the adjustments, divide the current monthly price by the appropriate seasonal adjustment, and multiply by 100. In the absence of adjustment factors for the months beyond June 1951, the 1950 figures for July-December are given above. They can be accepted as approximate guides, because in the recent past there have seldom been pronounced changes from year to year in these monthly figures.

While the above seasonal adjustment factors are for use in comparing current prices received with parity prices for eggs, it does not necessarily follow that the same factors will be used by the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with the legal minimum price ceilings as provided in Section 402 (d) (3) of the Defense Production Act of 1950.

After the seasonally-adjusted monthly egg price is determined, it is divided by the effective parity price to indicate the current percent of parity.

As in the case for chickens and turkeys, the current prices as a percentage of parity are indicated in Agricultural Prices, together with the basic data necessary for the computation.

The following are examples of the actual computation of prices as a percentage of parity for January, 1951:

	Eggs	Chickens	Turkeys
Base period price, cents	1/21.5	2/11.1	2/14.2
Multiply by: Applicable index of prices paid	3/266	4/272	4/272
Product	5,719.0	3,019.2	3,862.4
Divided by 100	57.2	30.2	38.6
Multiply by .90 to convert to transitional parity (eggs only), cents	51.5		
Effective parity price, cents	51.5	30.2	38.6
Price received by farmers, cents ...	42.6	24.3	33.9
Divide by: seasonal adjustment factor (eggs only)	101		
Quotient	.422		
Multiplied by 100 (seasonally adjusted farm price), cents	42.2		
Farm price (for eggs, seasonally adjusted), divided by parity price, and multiplied by 100: farm price as a percentage of parity	82	80	88

1/ 60-month average, August 1909-July 1914.
2/ Adjusted base period prices 1910-14 derived from 120-month average, January 1941-December 1950, by dividing by 218 percent (the 120-month average, of Index of Prices Received by Farmers for January 1941-December 1950).
3/ Index of Prices Paid, Interest, and Taxes computed in the same manner as prior to January 1, 1950.
4/ Index of Prices, Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates as computed since January 1, 1950.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U. S. AVERAGE EGG PRICES AND PRICES IN TERMINAL MARKETS

by

Edward Karpoff

Over long periods of time, changes in prices paid to farmers for eggs and changes in the wholesale prices of eggs in New York and Chicago have been fairly closely related. Relationships between the country and terminal market prices have not been precise and exact, nor have the differentials been constant, but the level of current prices in the city markets nevertheless provides a basis for anticipating the general range within which the country paying prices can be expected to fall. One of the uses to which this association may be put is to gauge country paying prices during the intervals between the mid-month reports of prices received by farmers. Another use is to anticipate the mid-month prices received by farmers, since a lag of about two weeks ensues between the observation of the price data and release of the report which summarizes the data.

The fact that there is a relation between wholesale prices in both New York and Chicago, and U. S. average farm prices, should not be construed to indicate that one is definitely and entirely a cause and the other an effect. However, for the most part, changes in country paying prices are adjusted to changes in wholesale prices on major markets.

The wholesale quotations used in the four 6 section charts appearing in this issue were:

(a) for New York, the price quoted by the Urner-Barry Company for mid-western mixed colors, Extras No. 1 large, (or in the event that such a grade was not quoted the nearest comparable grade). In recent years, this has been taken as Extras (70 percent A's) or the nearest comparable grade.

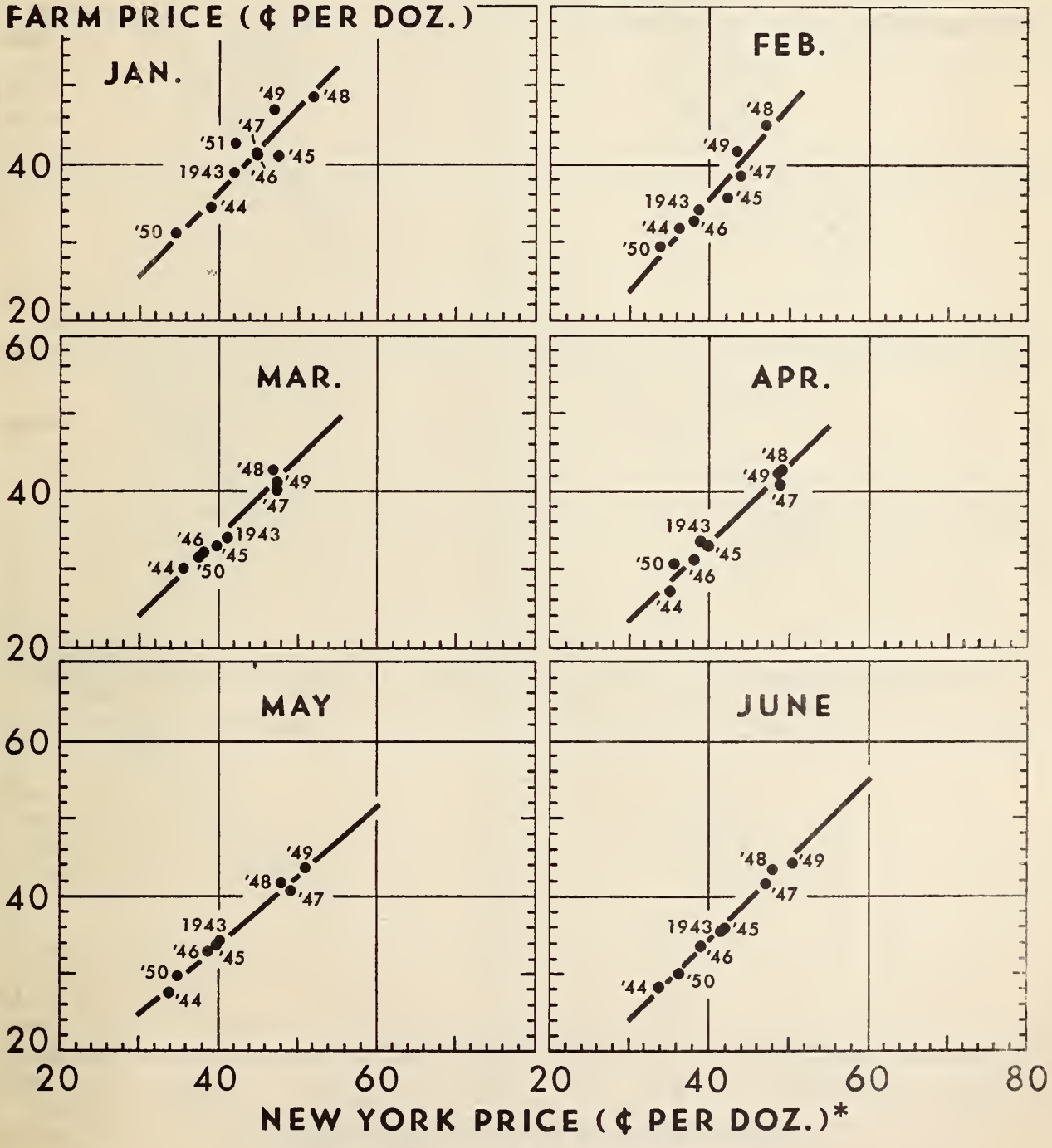
(b) for Chicago, the price taken was for Extras 1 and 2 as quoted by the U. S. Market News Service. When quotations from that source were not available for Extras 1 and 2, the highest quoted grade of Extras was used. In recent years, this has been taken as Extras (60 percent or more A's).

The above are selected grades of eggs and the spread between them and the farm price does not indicate the spread between farm and average market prices for eggs. Further, the spread between farm prices and the indicated wholesale prices is not an official determination of the relations between farm and wholesale prices.

The dates entering into the averages for these wholesale quotations were the 15th of the month and the 3 preceding business days, except that when the 15th of the month fell on a Saturday or Sunday the series of 4 daily prices was arranged to end on the Friday immediately preceding the 15th. The daily prices used were the averages of the high and low quotations. The comparisons between New York and Chicago wholesale quotations respectively, and prices received by farmers, were presented only from 1943 to date because consistent wholesale price series related to U. S. grades were not available for both cities before that year. During a part of the 1943-46 period the margins between farm and wholesale egg prices were affected by ceilings, but the effect of OPA regulations probably bore less heavily upon the margins, which are the focal-point of this presentation, than upon the absolute level of both farm and wholesale prices.

EGGS: U. S. FARM PRICE AND NEW YORK WHOLESALE PRICE

JAN.–JUNE

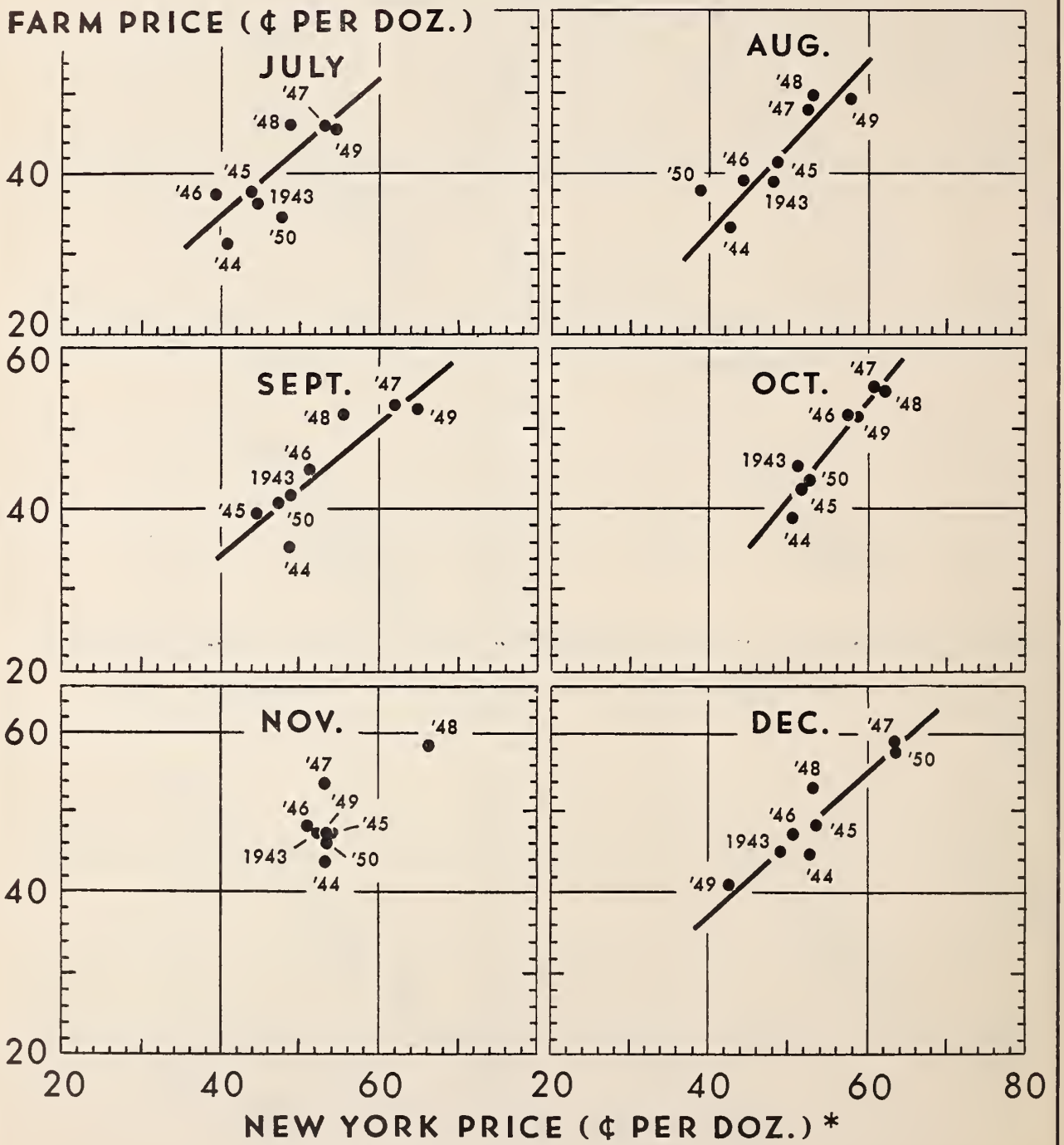


*FOR DESCRIPTION OF NEW YORK PRICE, SEE TEXT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 47657-VX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

EGGS: U. S. FARM PRICE AND NEW YORK WHOLESALE PRICE

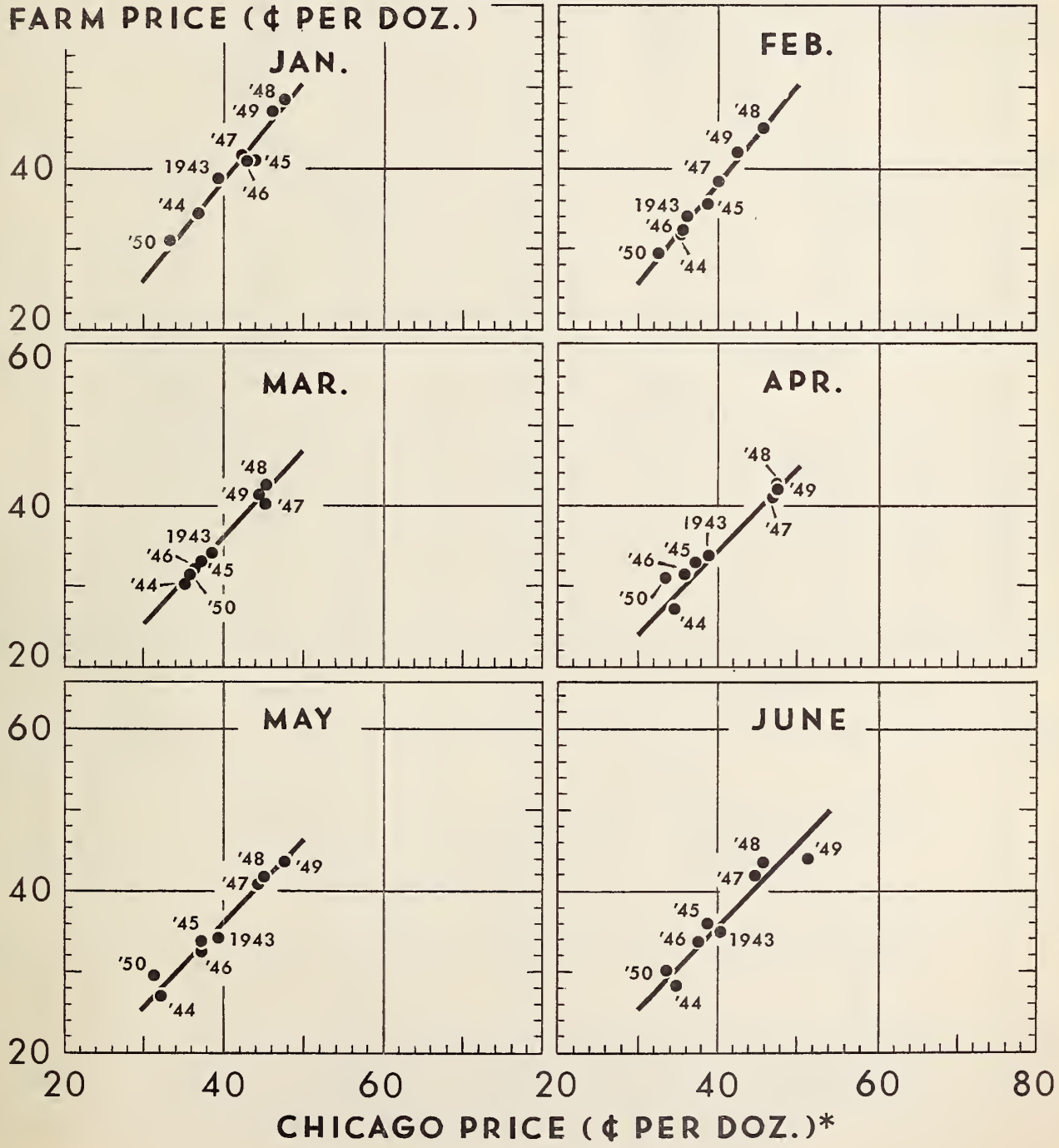
JULY–DEC.



* FOR DESCRIPTION OF NEW YORK PRICE, SEE TEXT

EGGS: U. S. FARM PRICE AND CHICAGO WHOLESALE PRICE

JAN.–JUNE

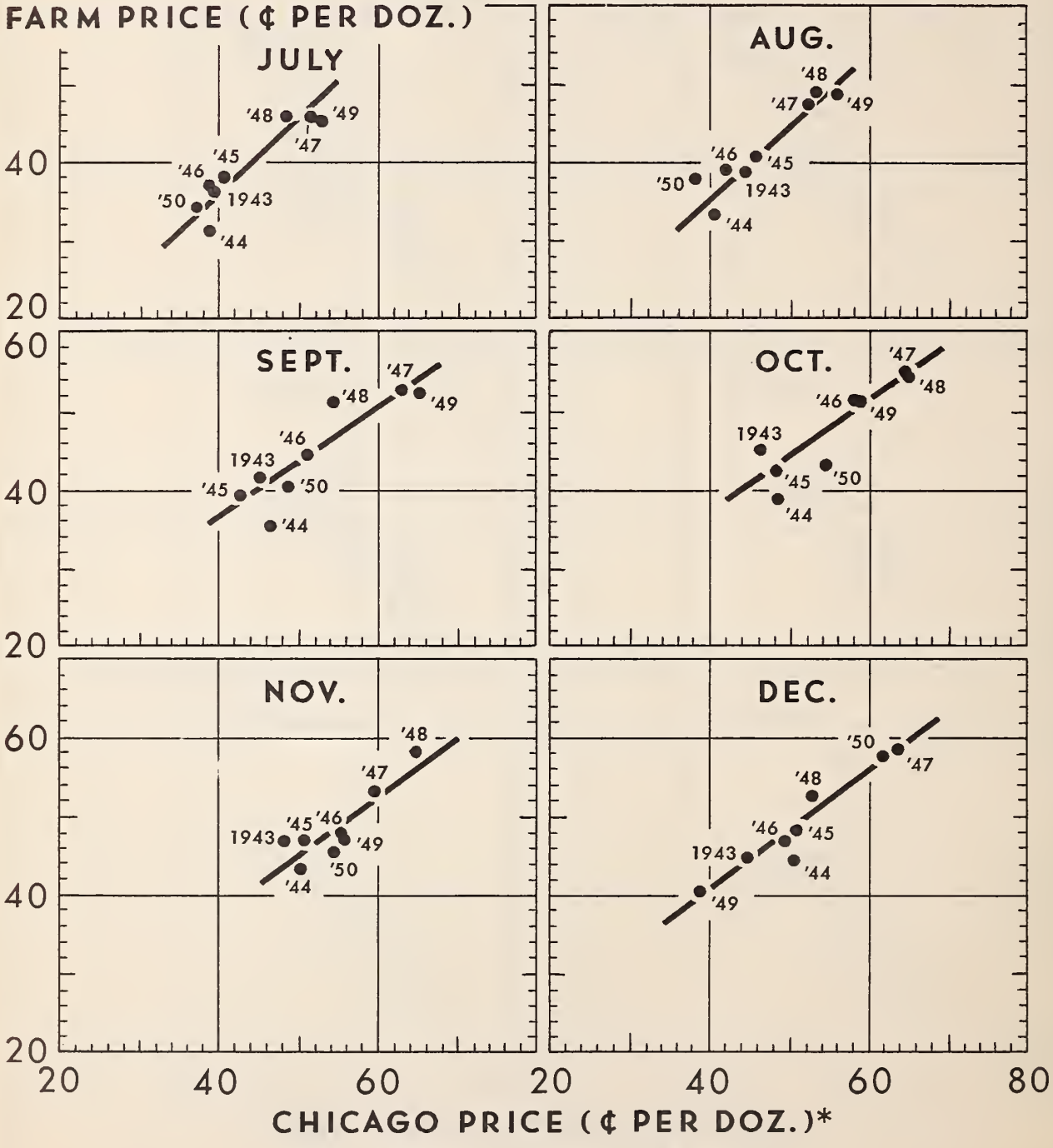


*FOR DESCRIPTION OF CHICAGO PRICE, SEE TEXT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 47656-VX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

EGGS: U. S. FARM PRICE AND CHICAGO WHOLESALE PRICE

JULY–DEC.



*FOR DESCRIPTION OF CHICAGO PRICE, SEE TEXT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 48011-VX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Table 11.- Eggs: Price per dozen received by farmers and wholesale prices at New York and Chicago, by months, 1943 to date

	January			February			March			April		
	Farm	New York	Chicago	Farm	New York	Chicago	Farm	New York	Chicago	Farm	New York	Chicago
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1943	39.0	41.8	39.7	34.2	38.5	36.3	34.0	40.9	38.4	33.7	38.8	39.0
1944	34.6	39.0	36.8	31.9	36.1	35.2	30.1	35.5	34.8	27.1	34.9	34.6
1945	41.0	47.2	44.0	35.8	42.0	38.9	33.1	39.8	37.2	33.0	39.8	37.2
1946	41.1	44.8	42.8	32.6	38.0	35.9	32.1	38.0	36.5	31.3	38.0	36.2
1947	41.3	44.7	42.4	38.6	43.9	40.1	40.1	47.1	45.3	40.8	48.8	47.0
1948	48.7	51.9	47.8	45.0	47.0	45.9	42.6	46.9	45.6	42.6	49.0	47.5
1949	47.1	46.9	46.4	41.8	43.3	42.7	41.2	47.1	44.8	42.3	48.6	47.6
1950	31.2	34.4	33.5	29.6	33.8	32.7	31.6	37.7	35.9	30.9	35.5	33.7
1951	42.6	41.9	40.1									

	May			June			July			August		
1943	34.2	40.0	39.4	35.2	41.3	40.2	36.3	44.5	39.5	38.8	48.0	44.5
1944	27.2	33.8	32.2	28.1	33.8	34.8	31.2	40.9	39.2	33.0	42.5	40.5
1945	33.7	39.8	37.2	35.8	41.8	39.0	37.9	43.8	40.8	40.8	48.6	46.0
1946	32.8	38.8	37.2	33.5	39.0	37.8	37.1	39.5	38.9	39.1	44.2	42.1
1947	40.7	49.1	44.6	41.5	47.0	45.0	45.7	52.8	51.4	47.5	52.2	52.2
1948	41.5	47.8	45.2	43.4	47.8	45.9	45.8	48.5	48.5	49.2	52.8	53.2
1949	43.4	50.8	47.9	44.1	50.4	51.1	45.3	54.5	52.8	48.8	57.8	56.0
1950	29.6	34.8	31.7	30.1	36.1	33.7	34.3	37.5	37.4	38.0	39.0	38.3

	September			October			November			December		
1943	41.6	48.8	45.2	45.2	50.8	46.8	47.1	51.8	48.3	44.9	48.8	44.8
1944	35.4	48.6	46.4	38.8	50.2	48.6	43.4	52.8	50.6	44.5	52.6	50.4
1945	39.6	44.6	42.8	42.6	51.6	48.5	47.1	53.8	50.8	48.2	53.6	50.8
1946	44.5	51.1	51.2	51.5	57.4	58.5	47.8	50.8	55.5	47.0	50.6	49.2
1947	53.0	62.0	63.0	55.3	60.5	64.8	53.4	52.8	59.8	58.7	63.2	63.5
1948	51.4	55.6	54.4	54.7	62.0	64.9	58.3	66.2	64.8	52.8	53.1	52.8
1949	52.5	64.9	65.2	51.4	58.5	58.8	47.1	53.2	55.9	40.5	42.2	38.9
1950	40.4	47.2	48.6	43.2	52.5	54.6	45.8	53.4	54.5	57.7	63.3	61.9

The wholesale quotations listed above are:

(a) for New York, the price quoted by the Urner-Barry Company for mid-western mixed colors, Extras No. 1 large, (or in the event that such a grade was not quoted, the nearest comparable grade). In recent years, this has been taken as Extras (70 percent A's) or the nearest comparable grade.

(b) for Chicago, the price taken was for Extras 1 and 2 as quoted by the U. S. Market News Service. When quotations from that source were not available for Extras 1 and 2, the highest quoted grade of Extras was used. In recent years, this has been taken as Extras (60 percent or more A's).

The dates entering into the averages for these wholesale quotations were the 15th of the month and the 3 preceding business days, except that when the 15th of the month fell on a Saturday or Sunday the series of 4 daily prices was arranged to end on the Friday immediately preceding the 15th. The daily prices used were the averages of the high and low quotations.

Table 12.- Chicks placed on farms in specified commercial broiler areas, and broiler prices and broiler-feed price ratios in the Del-Mar-Va area, by weeks, 1950

Week ending	Placements of chicks									Broiler price per pound	Broiler-feed price ratio
	East Conn.	Del-Mar-Va	Shenandoah Valley	Chatham-Wilkes N. C.	North Georgia	N. W. Arkansas	Texas area	Total	Cumulative total		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Cents	Lb. feed
Jan. 7	226	2,834	631	282	1,000	705	576	6,254	6,254	18.9	4.1
14	254	2,865	636	293	1,008	700	607	6,363	12,617	18.3	4.0
21	244	2,431	619	329	1,103	654	606	5,986	18,603	18.4	4.0
28	257	2,370	574	338	1,144	684	677	6,044	24,647	22.8	5.0
Feb. 4	263	1,619	612	333	1,219	722	568	5,436	30,083	20.3	4.5
11	251	1,959	537	398	1,358	658	663	5,824	35,907	24.0	5.2
18	252	3,340	662	432	1,352	698	768	7,504	43,411	25.3	5.6
25	229	3,564	643	423	1,355	734	771	7,719	51,130	26.2	5.7
Mar. 4	246	3,586	985	482	1,412	830	896	8,437	59,567	28.6	6.2
11	271	3,694	845	411	1,504	900	865	8,490	68,057	28.0	6.0
18	219	3,209	933	477	1,467	979	904	8,188	76,245	28.7	6.1
25	259	2,901	862	399	1,401	992	879	7,693	83,938	29.0	6.2
Apr. 1	206	2,869	861	416	1,469	1,028	896	7,745	91,683	29.0	6.2
8	282	2,613	336	404	1,488	982	906	7,511	99,194	27.9	6.0
15	172	2,812	824	434	1,369	1,003	861	7,475	106,669	27.2	5.8
22	265	2,934	766	447	1,353	905	837	7,507	114,176	28.3	6.0
29	249	3,022	713	435	1,371	918	750	7,458	121,634	27.2	6.0
May 6	197	2,947	679	341	1,367	865	748	7,144	128,778	24.6	5.1
13	263	2,851	660	381	1,350	799	710	7,014	135,792	24.1	4.9
20	186	2,825	654	393	1,368	783	694	6,903	142,695	25.3	5.1
27	260	2,951	643	420	1,330	799	661	7,064	149,759	25.8	5.2
June 3	283	2,857	678	453	1,361	754	712	7,098	156,857	26.8	5.3
10	342	2,906	740	444	1,329	738	750	7,249	164,106	26.5	5.4
17	217	3,013	746	453	1,361	703	731	7,224	171,330	26.0	5.3
24	238	3,161	732	427	1,375	688	700	7,321	178,651	25.4	5.2
July 1	262	3,116	733	490	1,382	633	691	7,307	185,958	25.9	5.3
8	229	3,137	731	457	1,427	757	709	7,447	193,405	26.9	5.5
15	225	3,152	655	459	1,355	671	733	7,250	200,655	28.8	5.7
22	157	3,153	672	440	1,317	647	658	7,044	207,699	33.3	6.6
29	180	3,310	635	392	1,338	627	703	7,185	214,884	34.0	6.7
Aug. 5	164	3,193	648	405	1,260	695	720	7,085	221,969	32.9	6.4
12	183	3,271	644	440	1,309	649	683	7,179	229,148	30.5	6.0
19	284	3,179	666	395	1,267	769	727	7,287	236,435	31.2	6.2
26	294	3,106	664	420	1,244	719	715	7,162	243,597	30.2	6.1
Sept. 2	266	3,056	585	413	1,198	710	728	6,956	250,553	28.7	5.9
9	221	3,161	633	413	1,271	714	673	7,086	257,639	28.3	5.7
16	262	3,302	651	419	1,272	576	704	7,186	264,825	28.9	5.9
23	278	3,318	722	432	1,319	672	721	7,462	272,287	27.2	5.6
30	293	3,268	693	423	1,304	650	769	7,400	279,687	27.3	5.6
Oct. 7	189	2,998	597	398	1,349	688	802	7,021	286,708	25.3	5.2
14	202	2,714	552	435	1,312	690	826	6,731	293,439	25.0	5.2
21	175	2,829	552	436	1,215	712	849	6,768	300,208	23.8	5.0
28	121	2,648	613	423	1,234	658	849	6,546	306,753	22.3	4.5
Nov. 4	157	2,512	605	423	1,208	695	892	6,492	313,245	24.2	5.0
11	138	2,714	590	389	1,268	633	856	6,588	319,833	24.6	5.1
18	150	2,730	588	376	1,208	688	837	6,577	326,410	25.3	5.2
25	114	2,965	627	384	1,176	710	858	6,834	333,244	24.1	4.9
Dec. 2	177	3,394	684	364	1,273	706	782	7,380	340,624	23.0	4.7
9	259	3,462	744	403	1,262	791	890	7,811	348,435	23.2	4.7
16	217	3,275	694	356	1,211	797	866	7,416	355,851	22.9	4.5
23	245	3,104	677	376	1,061	788	937	7,188	363,039	22.4	4.4
30	229	2,917	534	252	983	894	898	6,707	369,746	22.7	4.4
Total or average	11,802	155,117	35,460	21,058	67,237	39,160	39,912	369,746		26.1	5.4

Table 13.- Purchases of dried egg for price support by contract dates and scheduled months of delivery, 1950

Week in which contract was awarded	Net purchases 1/ by scheduled months of delivery												Total weekly purchases	Cumulative total of weekly purchases
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Jan. 7	0												0	0
14	443	114											557	557
21	1,084	391											1,475	2,032
28		1,080											1,080	3,112
Feb. 4		2,004											2,004	5,116
11		1,187											1,187	6,303
18		737	1,126										1,863	8,166
25			1,124										1,124	9,290
Mar. 4			1,901										1,901	11,191
11			1,735										1,735	12,926
18			1,112	31									1,143	14,069
25			135	2,191									2,326	16,395
Apr. 1				2,153									2,153	18,548
8				3,601									3,601	22,149
15				2,518	303								2,821	24,970
22				468	3,668								4,136	29,106
29					3,906								3,906	33,012
May 6					4,300								4,300	37,312
13					3,540	974							4,514	41,826
20					1,283	3,011							4,294	46,120
27						4,635							4,635	50,755
June 3						5,038	19						5,057	55,812
10						1,831	997						2,828	58,640
17						1,669	2,367						4,036	62,676
24						161	3,055						3,216	65,892
July 1							3,413						3,413	69,305
8							2,152	351					2,503	71,808
15							1,223	581					1,804	73,612
22							197	610					807	74,419
29								502					502	74,921
Aug. 5								346					346	75,267
12								567	184				751	76,018
19								753	271				1,024	77,042
26									1,177				1,177	78,219
Sept. 2									1,103				1,103	79,322
9									884				884	80,206
16									534				534	80,740
23									126	235			361	81,101
30										320			320	81,421
Oct. 7										265			265	81,686
14										91	80		171	81,857
21											133		133	81,990
28											106		106	82,096
Nov. 4											73		73	82,169
11											53		53	82,222
18											27	26	53	82,275
25												75	75	82,350
Dec. 2												22	22	82,372
9												---	---	82,372
16												---	---	82,372
23												51	51	82,423
30														
Total	1,527	5,513	7,133	10,962	17,000	17,319	13,423	3,710	4,279	911	472	174	82,423	

1/ Net after contract cancellations.